

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 00001 041154Z

45

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /033 W

----- 129978

O 041017Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8415

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 MANILA 11568

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ROBINSON, CHARLES W.)

SUBJ: DEPSEC VISIT TO MANILA - BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: MANILA 11484

1. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOLLOWS ON PRESIDENT MARCOS, FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE, AMBASSADOR TO US ROMUALDEZ, FINANCE SECRETARY VIRATA, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PELAEZ, CHIEF OF STAFF, ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES ESPINO" SECRETARY OF JUSTICE ABAD SANTOS, AND SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA.

2. PRESIDENT FERDINAD E. MARCOS (ADDRESSED AS "MR. PRESIDENT") FERDINAND MARCOS, 58, WAS FIRST ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1965, WHEN HE DEFEATED THE INCUMBENT, DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL, BY A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY. MARCOS WAS REELECTED IN 1969 IN A LANDSLIDE. IN SEPTEMBER 1972 HE DECLARED MARTIAL LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES, A BOLD BREAK WITH THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PAST.

MARCOS WAS BORN IN SARRAT, ILOCOS NORTE, THE PROVINCE IN NORTH-WESTERN LUZON KNOWN FOR ITS FRUGAL, HARDWORKING PEOPLE. HE FIRST ACHIEVED NATIONAL FAME AT THE AGE OF 22, WHILE STILL A LAW STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES. HE WAS ACCUSED OF MURDERING HIS FATHER'S CHIEF POLITICAL RIVAL AND THEN CONVICTED IN A WELL-PUBLICIZED TRIAL. MARCOS STUDIED FOR THE BAR EXAMINATION WHILE IN JAIL AND PASSED THE TEST WITH THE HIGHEST SCORE EVER ACHIEVED UP TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 00001 041154Z

THAT TIME. HE THEN DEFENDED HIMSELF BEFORE THE SUPREME

COURT AND WAS ACQUITTED. IN WORLD WAR II MARCOS WAS A HIGHLY DECORATED FILIPINO SOLDIER. A SURVIVOR OF THE BATAAN DEATH MARCH, HE ESCAPED FROM A JAPANESE CONCENTRATION CAMP TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL GUERRILLA LEADER. A REDOUBTABLE ORATOR, LAWYER, AND POLITICIAN, HE ROSE THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY AS A CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR BEFORE SWITCHING TO THE NACIONALISTA PARTY IN 1964.

MARCOS IS A PHYSICAL FITNESS ENTHUSIAST. HE PRACTICES YOGA AND ENJOYS GOLF, HUNTING, WATERSKIING, PELOTA, AND SKEETSHOOTING. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH. MARCOS IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER IMELDA ROMUALDEZ, A MEMBER OF A PROMINENT, POLITICALLY POWERFUL FAMILY AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST DAZZLING FIRST LADIES. MRS. MARCOS IS NOW THE GOVERNOR OF METRO MANILA. THE MARCOSES HAVE THREE CHILDREN; IMEE, 21; FERDINAND, JR. ("BONG-BONG"), 19; AND IRENE, 16.

3. CARLOS P. ROMULO, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (ADDRESSED AS "GENERAL" OR "MR. SECRETARY")
CARLOS P. ROMULO, 77, ONE OF ASIA'S MOST ENDURING AND ILLUSTRIOUS STATESMEN, WHO SERVED AS FOREIGN SECRETARY FROM 1950-52, WAS AGAIN NAMED TO THAT JOB IN 1968. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED SINCE 1962 AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES. LONG A FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES, ROMULO HAS RECENTLY TENDED TO STRESS PHILIPPINE NATIONALISM AND TO DEEMPHASIZE ALIGNMENT WITH THE U.S. HE ADVOCATES BROAD INTERNATIONAL TIES AND CLOSE REGIONAL COOPERATION.
DURING WORLD WAR II ROMULO WAS AN AIDE ON GENERAL MACARTHUR'S STAFF, AND LATER HE BECAME SECRETARY OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATION IN THE GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE IN WASHINGTON. ROMULO LED THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE ORGANIZING CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 1945 AND WAS CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE UN MISSION UNTIL 1953. HE WAS THE FIRST ASIAN PRESIDENT OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (1949-50). IN 1950 ROMULO WAS NAMED SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, A POST HE HELD UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 00001 041154Z

CUBA IN 1952. AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL BID FOR THE PHILIPPINE PRESIDENCY IN 1953, HE AGAIN BECAME AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1955.
ROMULO SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL. HIS LONG CAREER HAS GIVEN HIM A WELL-DEVELOPED SENSE OF HIS OWN IMPORTANCE. A WIDOWER, HE HAS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS BEEN CONSTANTLY ATTENDED AND ACCOMPANIED BY AN AMERICAN WRITER, BETH DAY.

4. JUAN ("JOHNNY") PONCE ENRILE, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE - (ADDRESSED AS "MR. SECRETARY").
AS THE CIVILIAN SUPERVISOR OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, THE PRINCIPAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FOR MARTIAL LAW MEASURES, ENRILE, 52, IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE MOST INFLUENTIAL OFFICIALS IN THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. HE IS ONE OF PRESIDENT MARCOS' MOST LOYAL LIEUTENANTS AND PRINCIPAL FAVORITES AND HAS OFTEN ACTED AS A PRESIDENTIAL TROUBLESHOOTER ON BOTH TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL MATTERS. IS IS WIDELY ASSUMED THAT ENRILE WOULD BE ONE OF THE LEADING CONTENDERS TO SUCCEED MARCOS IN THE EVENT OF THE LATTER'S INCAPACITATION. ENRILE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES COLLEGE OF LAW AND RECEIVED A MASTER OF LAW DEGREE FROM HARVARD IN 1955. HE SUBSEQUENTLY TAUGHT AND PRACTICED LAW IN MANILA. FROM HIS LAW PRACTICE AND SEVERAL BUSINESS INTERESTS, HE BEGAN TO ACCUMULATE A MODEST FORTUNE, WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN ADDED TO THROUGH THE FINANCIAL ADVANTAGES OF HIS GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. ENRILE SERVED AS SECRETARY OF JUSTICE, COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, INSURANCE COMMISSIONER, AND UNDERSECRETARY OF FINANCE BEFORE ASSUMING HIS PRESENT OFFICE IN FEBRUARY 1970. HE WAS HEAVILY DEFEATED IN HIS SINGLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA00001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-0376
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760888/aaaacziy.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 11484
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPSEC VISIT TO MANILA - BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
TAGS: OVIP, (ROBINSON, CHARLES W)
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006